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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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/079 W
---------- 090272
O P 140902Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4990
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
CINCPAC HI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0333

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JS, KN
SUBJECT: ROK REACTS STRONGLY TO REPORTS OF JAPANESE OVERTURES TO NORTH KOREA

REF: SEOUL 113

SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL DENIAL FROM GOJ OF ALLEGATIONS IN ROK PRESS JANUARY 13 AND 14 THAT PM TAKEO MIKI HAD AUTHORIZED LDP DIET MEMBER CHUJI KUNO TO PROPOSE TO DPRK EMBASSY IN PEKING A FIVE-POINT PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING JAPAN-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS. DENIAL WILL BE DELIVERED TO ROK FON MIN PAK TONG-JIN AFTERNOON JANUARY 14 IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY AND EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA JANUARY 13. END SUMMARY.

1. KOREAN PRESS JANUARY 13 AND 14 HEADLINED STORIES DATELINED TOKYO THAT JAPANESE LDP DIET MEMBER CHUJI KUNO, AT REQUEST OF PM MIKI, HAD MADE FIVE-POINT PROPOSAL TO DPRK EMBASSY PEKING FOR IMPROVEMENT OF JAPAN-DPRK RELATIIONS. ACCORDING
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TO MOFA, FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED IN JAPANESE AMBASSADOR JAN.

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13 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER THE REPORTS, TO INQUIRE INTO THE FACTS OF THE MATTER AND TO ASK THAT THE GOJ ISSUE A PUBLIC DENIAL IF THE REPORTS ARE UNTRUE. AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT, ACCORDING TO MOFA, BUT PROMISED TO QUERY TOKYO AND RESPOND. SOME MORNING PAPERS JAN. 14 CARRIED DENIAL BY PM MIKI DESCRIBING AS QTE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED UNQTE NEWS REPORTS THAT HE HAS PROPOSED TO NORTH KOREA THROUGH AN LDP DIET MEMBER A FIVE POINT PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING JAPAN-DPRK RELATIONS. ALL ROK PAPERS JAN. 14 CARRIED EDITORIALS ATTACKING JAPAN'S QTE DUAL DIPLOMATIC POLICY UNQTE. SOME PAPERS CARRIED KUNO PRESS STATEMENT AT HANEDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAT ALTHOUGH FIVE POINTS WERE HIS IDEA, HE CONTACTED NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AT REQUEST OF PM MIKI.

2. EMBASSY CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE OF PARA 1 WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELLOR KENICHIRO KONDO, WHO ADDED THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF MIKI DENIAL THAT HE HAD AUTHORIZED OR ASKED KUNO TO MAKE ANY APPROACH AT ALL TO NORTH KOREANS, WHICH WILL BE CONVEYED TO MOFA AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 14. FIRST SECY. HAMADA TOLD EMBOFF KUNO HAD VISITED PM AN APOLOGIZED FOR ASSOCIATING HIS NAME WITH KUNO'S INITIATIVE. KONDO SAID THAT STATEMENTS SUCH AS THE ONE ISSUED BY KUNO, HOWEVER REGRETTABLE AND HARMFUL TO JAPANESE INTERESTS, WERE ESSENTIALLY THE PRODUCT OF THE RISING ELECTION MOOD IN JAPAN AND THEREFORE LARGELY UNCONTROLLABLE.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, KUNO'S FIVE POINTS ARE (1) A JAPANESE DIET MEMBERS' MISSION BUILT AROUND KUNO'S DIETMEN'S LEAGUE TO BE SENT TO PYONGYANG. (2) THE MISSION WILL SEEK TO SETTLE THE TRADE PROBLEM THAT HAD DISTURBED NORTH KOREA-JAPAN RELATIONS SINCE LAST YEAR AND TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS (3) THE MISSION WILL TRY TO EXPEDITE THE CONCLUSION OF A NORTH KOREA-JAPAN FISHERY AGREEMENT (4) IT WILL CALL ON NORTH KOREA TO REOPEN ITS DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH KOREA FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA (5) JAPAN WILL TRY TO CONTRIBUTE TO CONTACT BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES.
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4. MOFA SAID THAT ROK EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAD ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO QUERY GAIMUSHO ALONG SAME LINES AS FOREIGN MINISTER'S QUERY TO JAPANESE EMBASSY. THUS FAR, MOFA HAS RECEIVED NO REPORT FROM ROK EMBASSY TOKYO. MOFA ASIA BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR GONG RO MYUNG TOKD EMBOFF JANUARY 14 ROKG IS CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLICITY STORIES LIKE THIS GET AND EFFECT THEY MAY HAVE IN ENCOURAGING NORTH KOREA TO BELIEVE

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THAT CONTINUED DPRK INTRANSIGENCE WILL EVENTUALLY DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN GOJ , ROK AND U.S., AS WELL AS BEING CONCERNED THAT THESE INITIATIVES MAY ACTUALLY BE PERHAPS INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER.

5. DURING CONVERSATION HERE LAST WEEK, (REFTEL) GAIMUSHO NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION DIRECTOR MASAKI ENDO SAID HE HAD DISCOURAGED UPCOMING JSP MISSION TO PYONGYANG FROM PURSUING QUESTION OF FISHING AGREEMENT WITH DPRK ON GROUNDS THAT JAPANESE FISHING COMMUNITY VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSOLIDATED AND THAT THEREFORE A JAPANESE INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA WAS PREMATURE.

6. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IN VIEW OF REFERENCE IN FIFTH POINT TO JAPANESE EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTING TO CONTACT BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND U.S., IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR USG TO FIND SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS CONCERN IN LOW KEY ABOUT DAMAGE TO OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO KOREAN PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LDP FREEBOOTERS ATTACHING PM'S ENDORSEMENT TO THEIR PUBLICITY-SEEKING PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT GOJ DENIAL AS REPORTED IN PRESS.
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